

TESTIMONY OF DAVE SIMPSON

ON

**THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY'S PROPOSED RULE
"GUIDELINES FOR PHYSICIAN PANEL
DETERMINATIONS OF WORKER REQUESTS FOR
ASSISTANCE IN
FILING FOR STATE WORKERS' COMPENSATION
BENEFITS"**

RADISSON HOTEL CINCINNATI AIRPORT

OCTOBER 25, 2001

DAVE SIMPSON

I was hired April fools day in 1980. During the orientation briefing the company bragged how great they were for pouring PCB's on the ground south of the X326/X600 building. They claimed they were doing Bioremediation and the bacteria would decompose this material and make it non hazardous. In fact, just a few years ago, we spent millions of dollars to try to clean up this area and finally gave up and put a clay cap on it.

For decades, the Department of Energy's methodology for disposing of hazardous waste was to pour it on the ground. When it came to the workers, they were treated as a consumable part of the plant to use up and then throw away.

We are only now just discovering how much and to what extent the cover-up of our work exposures of radiation and chemicals may have been.

We are still just in the beginning stages of discovering how our medical health, exposure data, and medical records have manipulated, altered, falsified and diluted with the test results of control groups to lower or minimize our exposure doses.

We have company documents that clearly show that the company deliberately withheld information that pertained to the chemicals that they worked with and how hazardous they were. These documents state that the sole purpose for the company to withhold this information was to prevent the workers from filing medical claims and costing the company money by paying out medical awards.

We have also discovered that the industrial hygiene and health physics programs in numerous cases were not adequate to assess the workers exposures. Some examples of this are:

1. altered Thermoluminescent Dosimeter badge reading
2. known contaminated asbestos samples that come back below threshold limits
3. in vivo was only calibrated for uranium but gave results for numerous other radionuclides for a false sense of security
4. urinalysis has a plus/minus 100 % accuracy even when done accurately.
5. cases where the company withheld Industrial Hygiene or Health Physics data until after the work was completed to prevent the requirement of increased Personal Protective Equipment due to high exposures

All of this information shows a clear trend to hide and deny information and access to information to the affected worker.

The workers were also discouraged in their quest for IHHP data or medical data by the company's policy of classified or secret need to know information. Workers were required to sign documents of non-disclosure of information at the time of employment.

As we research our exposure records and do risk mapping of the plant we are still finding new hazards and chemicals that we were exposed to. It is still extremely difficult for current working employees to get the information they need to file a claim and it is almost impossible for a retiree or someone who has left the plant to reconstruct their work record.

Subtitle d sec. 3661 of assistance in state workers compensation mandates by law that the Secretary of Energy is to provide assistance to a Department of Energy contractor employee in filing a claim under the appropriate state workers compensation system.

The workers are proud and highly trained workers. They have worked for decades in highly hazardous work environments. Working to protect America. Working to give Americans peace of mind so they may

sleep at night. They are cold war veterans. They are patriots for they have in many cases protected our country with their life. Now are we going to throw them out with the trash? Are we going to abandon them in their time of need? They are only asking for just and fair compensation for the sacrifices they have given to their country.

I challenge you to tell these workers that our country is going to abandon them now and in their time of need.

Section 3651 requires the government to step up now to give assistance to the patriots in their time of need. Now is the time for every one in this room to do their part for our country and these workers and give them the assistance they need.

Thank you
Dave Simpson